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New Civics Apps Released

Three new K-12 educational applications created with support from the Library are the latest in a series devoted to Congress and civic participation.

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The Hungarian-born cataloger is remembered for his expertise in cataloging and foreign languages and his helpfulness to colleagues.

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Shawn Miller

A collections display VHP hosted for World War II veterans in December 2018 is among many events the project has organized over the past 20 years to raise awareness of veterans' issues and increase participation in VHP.

Veterans History Project Celebrates 20-Year Milestone

A yearlong celebration of VHP's founding continues with special events starting next week.

BY LISA TAYLOR AND MEGAN HARRIS

During a year shaped by change and uncertainty, the Veterans History Project (VHP) has taken its cue from the people whose stories it holds and marched forward. For the past 20 years, Congress, our nation's veterans and thousands of volunteers have come to expect nothing less.

As of Tuesday, VHP has gathered veterans' stories for 20 years. Congress established it on Oct. 27, 2000, to collect, preserve and make accessible first-person accounts of U.S. war veterans so that future generations can hear

directly from veterans and better understand the realities of war.

Over the past year, VHP has commemorated its anniversary with events highlighting the collection as both an archival resource and a diverse repository of veterans' experiences. The celebration continues with a series of panel discussions and performances to take place online from Nov. 6 through 14.

Veterans, VHP advocates and accomplished interviewers will talk about their experiences documenting veterans' stories, and performers – including Tennes-

VHP ANNIVERSARY, CONTINUED ON 6

DONATED TIME

The following employees have satisfied eligibility requirements to receive leave donations from other staff members. Contact Lisa Davis at (202) 707-0033.

Craig Andrews
Sharif Adenan
Lynette Brown
Sharron Jones

Laura Monagle
Terri Harris-Wandix
Donna Williams
Eric Wolfson

QUARTERLY TECH FORUM

Nov. 10, 2 to 3:30 p.m.

The Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) invites all Library staff to attend its quarterly tech forum. OCIO senior leaders will update staff on recent information technology activities and field questions.

Staff can send an email to askthecio@loc.gov to submit a question in advance. Questions will also be accepted during the forum.

The forum will be hosted on Webex: <https://bit.ly/3mmSb64>

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION FORUMS

The Diversity and Inclusion Working Group is hosting two staff forums on diversity and inclusion at the Library. The purpose is to inform the Library community about the group's activities and mission.

The first forum will take place on Nov. 10 from 3 to 4 p.m. The second will be held on Nov. 17 from 1 to 2 p.m. Webex details to participate will be shared soon.

View the Library's plan for diversity and inclusion: <https://go.usa.gov/x722n>

Questions? Contact diversityandinclusion@loc.gov.

COVID-19 UPDATE

The Health Services Division (HSD) continues to monitor Library staff members with symptoms, clinical diagnoses or positive test results associated with COVID-19.

Since March 13, when the Library began tracking cases, 22 of 147 employees reporting symptoms have tested positive for COVID-19. Among those 22 positive cases, two employees had returned to work on-site in the Library at the time when they were tested.

Many issues can cause symptoms consistent with COVID-19, such as allergies, smoking, gardening or mold-related throat irritation, menstrual-cycle symptoms, food poisoning and more. Although most employees reporting symptoms are not diagnosed with COVID-19, HSD requires Library employees to report all symptoms consistent with the virus and, to reduce the chance of infection at the Library, HSD staff monitor all reports of symptoms.

In cases in which ill individuals were present in Library buildings, HSD also notifies their close work contacts and cleans and disinfects the areas affected. The same process is followed when contractors in Library buildings become ill.

On Oct. 22, HSD announced that eight employees reported exposure to or symptoms of COVID-19 during the previous week.

More information on the Library's pandemic response: <https://go.usa.gov/xdtv5> (intranet) or <https://go.usa.gov/xdtvQ> (public-facing staff web page)

GAZETTE

LIBRARY
OF CONGRESS

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MISSION OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

The Library's central mission is to engage, inspire and inform Congress and the American people with a universal and enduring source of knowledge and creativity.

ABOUT THE GAZETTE

An official publication of the Library of Congress, The Gazette encourages Library managers and staff to submit articles and photographs of general interest. Submissions will be edited to convey the most necessary information.

Back issues of The Gazette in print are available in the Communications Office, LM 143. Electronic archived issues and a color PDF file of the current issue are available online at loc.gov/staff/gazette.

GAZETTE WELCOMES LETTERS FROM STAFF

Staff members are invited to use the Gazette for lively and thoughtful debate relevant to Library issues. Letters must be signed by the author, whose place of work and telephone extension should be included so we can verify authorship. If a letter calls for management response, an explanation of a policy or actions or clarification of fact, we will ask for management response.—Ed.

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GAZETTE DEADLINES

The deadline for editorial copy for the Nov. 13 Gazette is Wednesday, Nov. 4.

Email editorial copy and letters to the editor to mhartsell@loc.gov and wmal@loc.gov.

To promote events through the Library's online calendar (www.loc.gov/loc/events) and the Gazette Calendar, email event and contact information to calendar@loc.gov by 9 a.m. Monday of the week of publication.

Boxed announcements should be submitted electronically (text files) by 9 a.m. Monday the week of publication to mhartsell@loc.gov and wmal@loc.gov.

New Apps Teach Students about Civics

Three new Library-supported apps encourage civic participation.

BY STEPHEN WESSON

The seventh-grade producer of a musical about President Theodore Roosevelt and naturalist John Muir needs to come up with a song about conservation in the early 20th century that's both accurate and catchy. Another student channeling an activist in the women's suffrage movement has to decide whether to picket Woodrow Wilson's White House or try other tactics. And yet another pores over reporters' notes and television coverage of the Watergate scandal to weigh the impact of investigative reporting on the nation's civic life in the 1970s and beyond.

These are just a few of the challenging situations K-12 students might find themselves in as they explore three new educational applications created with support from the Library. Developed by leading educational organizations and game development studios, they are the latest in a series of eight web- and mobile-device-based applications related to Congress and civic participation that the Library has supported over the past five years (<https://go.usa.gov/x73c6>).

The new apps are "Civics: An American Musical," which was developed by Fablevision Games; "Voices of Suffrage," created by Second Avenue Learning; and "Journalism in Action," developed by PBS NewsHour Extra.

Congress first asked the Library in 2015 to identify organizations that could develop online interactives and apps for classroom use on Congress and civic participation and to support them with grants from the Library's Teaching with Primary Sources program.



Ilene Berson

Students use one of the civics-related educational apps developed with support from the Library.

"Civic literacy has never been more important, and we now have a full suite of interactive tools for students from kindergarten to high school, each of which takes its own unique approach to examining important principles and moments in the nation's civic life, all through the lens of primary sources from Library collections," said Lee Ann Potter, director of the Library's Learning and Outreach Initiatives Office.

The Library's first three development partners – the Center on Representative Government at Indiana University, Muzzy Lane Software (now Snow & Co.) and the Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media – were selected after an extensive review process, and their apps were launched in 2017. The next two partners, iCivics and Bean Creative, were selected in 2016, and their projects were released in 2018.

Each of the partners worked closely with a core group of the Library's educational resources specialists as well as with reference specialists and others at the Library. Staff alerted partners to Library collections and ensured that products reflected effective

approaches to teaching with primary sources.

For the partners, the launch of their application was just the beginning. Since then, they have supported use of the applications by creating additional content, promoting the apps at conferences and elsewhere and providing professional development sessions for educators, both in-person and online. They have also served as active members of the Library's Teaching with Primary Sources consortium, exchanging ideas with their fellow partners and supporting the growth of the Library's educational program.

By now, teachers and students at all grade levels across the U.S. have used the apps hundreds of thousands of times. But their greatest impact might be the new discussions that they've prompted.

"The innovative tools partners have developed featuring items from the Library's collections have not only provided rich and engaging educational experiences for students, but they have also challenged our thinking and greatly enriched the conversation about civics education at the Library and nationwide," Potter said. ■

National Women's Party Donates Records to the Library

This month, the National Woman's Party (NWP) announced the gift of its historical collection to the Library of Congress and the National Park Service (NPS). The collection documents the movement for women's suffrage and women's equality and comes as the country celebrates 100 years of women's constitutional right to vote.

Already the repository for a majority of NWP papers and related women's history collections, the Library will serve as the home for the remainder of the NWP's records – approximately 310,000 documents, 100 scrapbooks, 50 political cartoons, 4,500 photographs, 750 periodical volumes, 2,400 books from the NWP's Florence Bayard Hilles Library and other paper and digital materials.

Dating from the 1860s to the 2010s, the documents include correspondence, administrative files, meeting minutes, financial and legal reports, a legislative card file, posters, broadsides and other items. The Florence Bayard Hilles Library collection, considered the oldest feminist library in the U.S., includes monographs and serials dating from 1720 to 2014.

The donated materials complement 167 original political cartoons by NWP's lead illustrator, Nina Allender, that the Library purchased.

"American history is not complete without women's history, and the Library of Congress is honored to preserve these original records, photographs, drawings and scrapbooks that document the history of women's rights and the fight for equality," said Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden. "We will be proud to make this historic collection of the National Woman's Party available to the nation alongside our other extensive collections of manuscripts, prints and photographs."

The NPS will receive the NWP's textiles, banners, furniture, paint-



The NWP collection includes documents, photographs, scrapbooks, banners, artwork and other artifacts spanning women's suffrage and the movement for women's equality.

ings, sculpture and other artifacts. Notable examples include the banners held by women picketing the White House for suffrage; an original "Jailed for Freedom Pin" that NWP founder Alice Paul gave to NWP members who served time in jail; keys to the District of Columbia jail where picketing suffragists were incarcerated; and famed suffragist leader Susan B. Anthony's desk.

The NPS will continue to operate the Belmont-Paul Women's Equality National Monument in Washington, D.C., which serves as the National Woman's Party's historical headquarters. It was donated to the NPS by NWP in 2016, when it

was designated a national monument. Much of the collection now being gifted to the NPS is currently on display at the monument, where it will continue to be accessible to the public through the permanent exhibit and specially curated exhibitions.

Founded in 1913 by Paul and Lucy Burns, the NWP led the fight for women's suffrage and later for equal rights for women. In 1923, Paul and her colleagues drafted the original Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution, still being pursued today.

The innovative tactics by NWP members – marching, picketing, organizing and successfully changing discriminatory laws at the local, state, federal and international levels – are chronicled in the historical collection that has been carefully preserved over the last century. ■

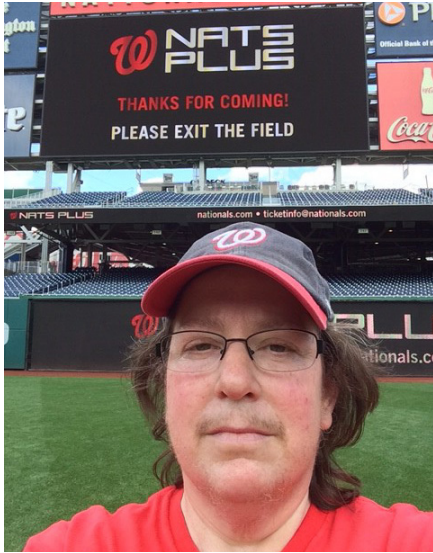
OIG WOULD LIKE TO KNOW

Report suspected illegal activities, waste, fraud, abuse and mismanagement in Library of Congress administration and operations to the Office of the Inspector General (OIG). A link to all Library regulations is available on the staff intranet at <http://staff.loc.gov/sites/rules-and-regulations/>.

To make a report, contact OIG via the online form at www.loc.gov/about/office-of-the-inspector-general/contact-us/ or report anonymously by mail to 101 Independence Ave., S.E., LM 630, Washington, D.C., 20540-1060.

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QUESTION & ANSWER



Martha Lederer

Martha Lederer

Martha Lederer is a senior information technology specialist in the Web Systems Management Section of the Office of the Chief Information Officer.

Tell us a little about your background.

My family is from the Bronx, New York, and we moved to suburban Maryland when I was a baby. I grew up mostly in Rockville, Maryland. After graduating from Robert E. Peary High School in Rockville, I went to Grinnell College in Iowa, where I graduated with a bachelor's degree in sociology. I've been working in libraries since I was 14 years old – first at the Aspen Hill Public Library in high school, then at the Grinnell library during college and now at the Library of Congress.

What brought you to the Library, and what do you do?

I first worked for the Library as a Congressional Research Service (CRS) temp during summer 1985. I started applying for other jobs at the Library during my senior year at Grinnell and was eventually selected for a role in the legacy Library Services Division of CRS. It was nice just to get a job right after graduation! I then moved on to a bibliographic assistant position.

CRS had a Career Opportunity Pro-

gram that included an information technology job in its Automation Office. After I was selected for that position, I served in CRS' information technology office for almost 30 years before it was merged into the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO). Through the years, I've worked on many CRS technology projects, especially messaging systems, and I've been working with CRS' email system since it began.

What are a few of your favorite projects so far?

"So far" covers over 33 years for me – my time at the Library! In the early '90s, my team set up the CRS email system. Now that I'm in OCIO, one of my new team's big projects will be consolidating CRS' IT systems with the Library's. Part of that work includes supporting the new Integrated Research and Information System (IRIS), which will bring needed infrastructure and network adjustments for CRS technology and help advance the Library's overall IT modernization efforts. CRS staff use a lot of mission-specific software applications to research, analyze, create and deliver their products and services to Congress. IRIS is being designed to modernize these tools while protecting the security and confidentiality of congressional data. The entire project has been a close partnership between CRS and OCIO.

Has your work changed this year during the pandemic?

I teleworked a couple of days a week before the pandemic, so changing to teleworking every

day has not been a big issue. As a member of OCIO's Web Systems Management Section, just about all of my work can be done remotely. My team meets over Skype, which is what we often did before, so that aspect has been business as usual. The IT Service Operations Directorate in OCIO, of which I'm a part, has had a major role in keeping operations as smooth as possible during this period. So, the only real difference I've encountered is that there is a greater chance you will hear my beagle howl in the background. I do miss seeing people around the office, but my dog definitely likes to have someone take him for lunchtime walks.

What do you enjoy doing outside work?

I am a big baseball fan and am part of a season ticket group with the Nationals. The Nats winning the World Series last year (and my being able to attend a couple of World Series games) has made getting through this pandemic season a little easier – although the Nationals have been denied a victory lap. Hopefully, the team will be able to raise their World Series banner next year with fans and the 2020 season can be forgotten.

I also enjoy spending time with my dog, Rook; taking him for walks; and watching him track squirrels in the backyard (and listening to the requisite howling).

What is something your co-workers may not know about you?

I learned to solve the Rubik's cube when it first came out many years ago. My fastest time was 39 seconds. ■

CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS MONTH

The Library is celebrating National Cybersecurity Awareness Month this October with helpful resources and information to keep staff safe and secure online. For easy-to-access tips about smart IT security practices you can employ while teleworking and on-site, download or print four new posters created by the IT security team in the Office of the Chief Information Officer. Coming soon, staff can also watch videos about the experts who work behind the scenes to ensure strong IT security at the Library.

Posters and other IT security resources: <https://go.usa.gov/x7a2m>

VHP ANNIVERSARY, CONTINUED FROM 1

see-based Operation Song; Virginia-based Gold Star sister Barbara Martin; and Emmy-nominated composer Roxanne Seeman – will explore narratives through music. The events will premiere on the VHP’s Facebook page: www.facebook.com/vetshistoryproject.

See page 7 of this Gazette issue for the full lineup.

“This year has been challenging, to say the least, but no less impactful than any other in VHP’s amazing 20-year history,” said Karen Lloyd, VHP’s director. “November’s events are the high point in a year of raising awareness about VHP in multiple venues.”

A Veterans Art Showcase in November 2019 kicked off VHP’s anniversary year, demonstrating the many ways veterans use the arts and personal narrative to help them transition to civilian life. Programming included ceramic arts demonstrations, poetry readings and theatrical and musical performances based on veterans’ experiences and interviews.

When the COVID-19 pandemic arrived, VHP adjusted quickly, like many others at the Library, and began offering virtual programming. Notable online events included the panel “Veteran Entrepreneurship and Post-Traumatic Stress,” which highlighted veterans who started their own businesses or charitable organizations and individuals from the government and nonprofit sectors who helped them. Moderated by Chas Henry, host of CBS’ “Eye on Veterans,” it attracted over 2,200 viewers.

For more than 10 years, VHP has hosted a national radio media tour. This year, it became an even more powerful tool that enabled Lloyd to inspire participation in VHP and connect listeners to the collection. On Memorial Day, her radio appearances received more than 2,800 airplays, reaching millions of listeners.

VHP’s 20th anniversary coincided with the 75th anniversary of the

end of World War II, which staff commemorated through posts on the “Folklife Today” blog.

For a flyover of Washington, D.C., planned for September and meant to feature 70 vintage war planes, staff edited and wrote posts that showcased repurposed vintage-style flight log books that tied VHP collections by veteran to each aircraft. Unfortunately, the flyover was scrapped because of weather, but the materials were distributed to a wide audience through partners including the Smithsonian Institution’s Udvar-Hazy Center.

This summer also saw the release of VHP’s 68th installment of its online exhibit, “Experiencing War.” In a nod to the summer’s postponed Olympic Games, the exhibit featured the stories of veteran athletes.

These are some of the standout efforts from this year. But since its inception, VHP has hosted numerous panels, book talks, film screenings and campaigns to help bring awareness to veteran-related issues and increase participation in VHP among veterans and volunteers, including congressional offices, high schools and colleges, businesses, houses of worship, veteran-service organizations and Library staff.

Highlights include:

- In 2004, VHP collected nearly 2,000 short interviews from veterans attending the dedication of the National World War II Memorial, thanks to volunteers roaming the National Mall with tape recorders.
- In 2007, VHP hosted events to spotlight collaboration with filmmakers Ken Burns and Lynn Novick on their popular PBS documentary “The War.” Burns and Novick also researched VHP collections for their 2017 series, “Vietnam.”
- In 2011, VHP hosted a week dedicated to all aspects of military chaplaincy, shining a light on the important role that religious leaders play on the battlefield.
- From 2010 to 2014, VHP hosted “Take Your Veteran to Work Day,” encouraging Library employees to

bring a veteran to work to record an oral history interview and enjoy special tours.

- In 2015, VHP launched its “Do Your Part” campaign to motivate volunteers to interview the World War II veteran in their lives with support from the Buffy and William Cafritz Family Foundation.
- In 2016, the Gold Star Families Voice Act expanded VHP’s mission to include interviews with families of Armed Forces members who died during war. There are now over 100 such collections.
- In 2018, VHP was represented in the Library’s World War I exhibition, “Echoes of the Great War,” through a number of collections. It was seen by over 1.2 million visitors during its nearly two-year run.
- In 2019, VHP celebrated Women’s History Month by hosting the first-ever national reunion for the World War II women code breakers known as “code girls.”

With more than 111,000 veterans’ collections in its archive to date, VHP has no plans to slow down. Millions of U.S. veterans have yet to share their stories, and volunteers are needed to conduct oral history interviews of veterans and help submit original materials for preservation at the Library. The work is constant. The future awaits.

“As we pause to reflect on the past 20 years and look to the future, I extend my personal thanks to the veterans, volunteer participants, Library leadership and our staff – past and present – for your staunch support,” Lloyd said. “We will stay the course to make sure our veterans’ voices live on forever.”

Monica Mohindra and Kerry Ward contributed to this article. ■

Celebrating 20 Years of VHP

The following events, commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Veterans History Project, will premiere on the VHP's Facebook page: www.facebook.com/vetshistoryproject.

Nov. 6, 8 p.m.
Barbara Martin

The singer-songwriter and Gold Star sister performs songs she wrote honoring her brother Dennis Martin, who was killed in Vietnam in 1970 and whose letters and photos she donated to VHP.

Nov. 7, 8 p.m.
"In Love and War," Roxanne Seeman

The Emmy-nominated composer co-wrote and arranged "In Love and War" to honor World War II veterans, including her father, whose collection she is donating. Pianist Elise Solberg and singer Hannah Goldblatt perform.

Nov. 8, 8 p.m.
"Still Over There," Operation Song

Written by Jim Collins and Air Force/Navy veteran Franklin Tootle, "Still Over There" describes Tootle's journey with post-traumatic stress disorder from his service in Iraq. Operation Song pairs veterans with professional songwriters to help them tell their stories.

Nov. 9, Noon
Veterans Discuss VHP

Veterans from different generations, conflicts and backgrounds talk about the process for submitting a collection of military memories to VHP.

Nov. 10, 8 p.m.
"Old Glory," Operation Song

Written by Cindy Morgan and Navy veteran Kimberly Mitchell, "Old Glory" commemorates Mitchell's involvement with the Old Glory Yellow Ribbon Honor Flight, which takes Vietnam-era veterans on a

trip to Washington, D.C., and the AirVenture airshow in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

Nov. 12, Noon
Advocates Discuss VHP

A panel of liaisons talk about their use of VHP to engage their communities to ensure that their local veterans' and Gold Star family members' contributions are archived and made available.

Nov. 13, 7 p.m.
"Precious Pearl," Operation Song

Written by Morgan and Mitchell, "Precious Pearl" tells Mitchell's story of being adopted as a baby during Vietnam by a U.S. airman from Wisconsin.

Nov. 14, Noon
Volunteers Discuss VHP

A group of interviewers from students to professionals share the joys of interviewing veterans and best practices. ■

OBITUARY

Ivan Orelli

Ivan Orelli, a cataloger who worked at the Library for 35 years, died June 4 following a year of declining health.

Orelli was born in 1932 in Mezőberény, Hungary. After World War II, he was persecuted by the communist government because his father had been a general in the Hungarian army. He worked as a forced laborer in a coal mine and escaped Hungary during the 1956 uprising.

Orelli immigrated to the U.S. and took a job in a chemical laboratory in Ohio. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in German and French literature from John Carroll University and master's degrees in library science and German literature from Western Reserve University.

Before coming to the Library, he worked as a cataloger at Hofstra

University and California Polytechnic State University.

Orelli joined the Library in 1977 and served as a cataloger for many years in the East Central Europe Section (ECE) of the German/Slavic Division, cataloging Hungarian- and German-language materials.

Before coming to the ECE in 2008, Orelli worked as a senior cataloging specialist in the Germanic team of the History and Literature Cataloging Division. There, he served as acting team leader for a month in 2003 and received an On-the-Spot Award for that service. Before the reorganization of the Cataloging Directorate in 1992, Orelli worked in the German Section of the Shared Cataloging Division as a senior descriptive cataloger.

He retired in December 2014 and continued to serve as a volunteer two days a week.

"I first met Ivan ... in 2001," former colleague Michael Chyet recalled. "He was interested in several foreign language[s], and eventually at lunches we studied Hungarian, Turkish and Arabic together. Ivan made Hungarian come alive for me."

Orelli's colleague Faye-Ann Schott, also a Hungarian-language cataloger, trained with him for a year when she first came to the Library in 1991. She remembers him as an excellent subject cataloger and as being very helpful with any cataloging questions.

"Ivan was always polite with me, had a great sense of humor and shared keen political insights with me," she said. "I'll miss him."

Orelli is survived by a brother in Colorado, a nephew and his family in Colorado and a niece and her family in Indiana. ■